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October 2, 2001

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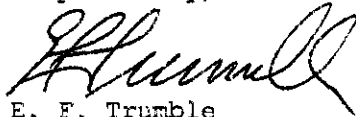
Re: Yucca Mountain Site Suitability

Having spent all 16 of my professional years in the fields of nuclear power and weapon material production and cleanup, I feel very strongly that sufficient time and energy has been expended to qualify the Yucca Mountain Site as suitable for receiving high level radioactive waste. 20 years and 6 billion dollars have been spent and yet the country is no closer to having an operational waste storage capability.

As the power shortages on the West Coast this summer showed, there is a need for power in the United States. Many average Americans, when asked, said that nuclear power should be considered if "we can find a solution to the waste problem". There is no lack of solution to the waste problem, other than that caused by the DOE and Congress failing to make the decision that enough study is enough. Not only is a repository a good business decision, but the material stored at a Federal Repository is much safer than if it is stored at multiple sites throughout the country.

At this point, the safety of the material being stored at Yucca Mountain has been shown in the Preliminary Site Suitability Report. The Secretary of Energy should take this report and recommend that the President endorse the site. If the State of Nevada denounces the decision, then "the good of the country" should prevail and the site should be opened anyway. Anyone found blocking transportation paths from the waste to Yucca should be found in violation of Federal Law and dealt with commensurate with the act. One person, or one group, should not impede the American people from moving forward with this solution to closing the fuel cycle. If DOE fails to make a decision, it will only lead to more naysayers stating that nuclear power cannot be used as there is no "solution to the waste problem". Let's build on the success of the Waste Isolation Pilot Plant startup and move forward in this country.

Respectfully,



E. F. Trumble
Nuclear Engineer
ANS Member